

REMARKS

Applicants respond to the final Office Action (“Office Action”) mailed on December 27, 2005 as follows. Claims 2, 6-9, 17 and 18 have been canceled. Claims 10-15 had been indicated as allowable in the Office Action. The claims have been rewritten so as to overcome the objections of the Office Action. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 10-16 are presently pending.

I. The Pending Claims Are Allowable

The claims rejected in the Office Action have been canceled without prejudice. In particular, Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation containing such claims prior to issuance of the present application.

Accordingly, the claims now pending are allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate the same.

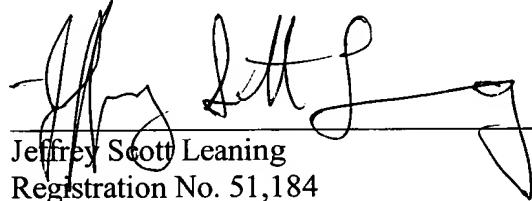
II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below-listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

In the event that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requires a fee to enter this Reply or to maintain the present application pending, please charge such fee to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 24, 2006

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